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BOOK DEPARTMENT.

NOTES.

THE COLLECTION ENTITLED "*Annales de la Société d'Économie politique*" (1846-1887) has just been completed, in sixteen volumes, under the editorial supervision of M. Alph. Courtois, the permanent secretary of the society, and is now to be sold to subscribers at the rate of 100 francs for the set.* In addition to an interesting sketch of the history of the society, these volumes contain the papers presented at the monthly meetings during the whole forty years covered, communications of all sorts concerning topics of current interest and reports of the discussions which these excited, reviews and notices of economic publications, etc., etc. There is thus scarcely a single topic of economic or social importance which does not receive some attention in these pages and to the student who is desirous of ascertaining what French economists have been thinking about during the last fifty years the collection will prove invaluable.

THE EIGHTH VOLUME of Booth's "*Life and Labour of the People of London*"† completes the "analysis of the population by trades," which was begun in the fifth volume, while the "summary of the general results of the investigation," which was promised for this number, has been relegated to the ninth volume. The divisions of the population whose industrial conditions were left for this volume to describe are: (1) Public service and professional classes, (2) domestic service, (3) the "unoccupied" classes and (4) inmates of institutions.

The general scheme of statistical presentation followed in the preceding volumes has been continued in this so far as it was applicable to the somewhat anomalous character of the divisions under treatment. The description of the civil service is of interest to American readers. The civil servant is on the whole better off than the majority of workers in private employment whose position can be compared with his, largely because of his superior security of tenure.

The description of army life is very plain and matter of fact, yet abundant ground is given for a desire that it might be abolished. One

* After three hundred subscriptions have been received the price for remaining sets is to be 144 francs. Communications should be addressed to M. Alph. Courtois, 14 rue Richelieu, Paris.

† *Life and Labour of the People of London*. Edited by CHARLES BOOTH, Vol. viii, "*Population Classified by Trades*" (continued). Pp. 480. Price, \$3. London and New York: The Macmillan Co., 1896.

of the gravest difficulties consists in finding employment for the 16,000 men who every year pass from the colors to the reserve.

The final third of the volume is taken up with a detailed account of the paupers, mostly inmates of the workhouse, relieved by the Stepney Poor-Law Union. It is a reprint with but slight changes of chapters in the book on pauperism and the endowment of old age, published in 1892. The matter taken entirely from the records of parochial relief, is given in crude, undigested form, but is not without interest. Compared with American conditions there is evidence of a much harder struggle for existence. Out of 1194 cases of pauperism, 224 were attributed to old age as the chief cause of need, and 355 to sickness and accident. In respect to 58, however, of the 224 cases attributed to old age, vice, drink, pauper associations, and extravagance, are mentioned as contributory causes, and in 20 others of the 224, vice and drink are mentioned in the descriptions of the families. In many other cases no doubt bad habits were a contributing cause though they did not come to the knowledge and records of the relieving officer. Yet with all these allowances made there is evidently a volume of unmerited and struggling poverty quite unknown in American industrial communities.

A MUCH NEGLECTED line of investigation has been taken up by the Economic Club during the last five years into the consumption of typical English families, of which the first fruit is a scholarly monograph containing the "budgets" of twenty-eight families running over a period of three years.* Messrs. Charles Booth, Ernest Aves, and Henry Higgs constituted the committee in charge of the work, and in a short "introduction" explain the purpose which they have held in view while thus following "humbly and at some distance in the footsteps of Le Play." They are very modest in the claims which they make for their investigation, admitting frankly that few safe generalizations can be based upon it, and at the same time are careful to give their information in such a way that the reader can himself judge of its accuracy and arrive at independent conclusions. The greatest merit of the work is, perhaps, the clear view which it gives of the difficulties which such an investigation encounters. Comparatively few families can be induced to keep budgets at all. Those which will undertake the task or furnish the requisite information are hardly typical in the sense of representing the average family of their class. When so few budgets are collected, a comparison between

* *Family Budgets: Being the Income and Expenses of Twenty-eight British Households, 1891, 1894.* Compiled for the Economic Club. Pp. 67. Price, 2s. 6d. London: P. S. King & Son. 1896.

them is confusing rather than helpful, as it emphasizes differences rather than similarities. However these twenty-eight budgets are not without their lessons to the student of social problems. They emphasize the important function of the wife as the *economist* of the laborer's family. They explain why the poor in great cities are so reckless in matters of marriage. They throw some light on the tendencies toward concentration in retail trade, and finally they point the way which economic investigations must follow in future if the science is to be brought into closer harmony with the facts of social and industrial life. The short sketches of the families which precede the accounts of their expenditures are full of interest and give a meaning to the figures which follow, which statistics usually lack. If a similar method were always followed in the presentation of social statistics, results arrived at by this road would command more respectful attention than is usually accorded to them.

A LITERARY MONUMENT of the recent millennial exhibition at Budapesth has been issued by authority of the Hungarian Minister of Commerce, in a volume entitled "The Millennium of Hungary and Its People."* Its purpose is to depict the prevailing political, economic and intellectual conditions in Hungary. To ensure its wider circulation, the book has been printed not only in the official languages of the Hungarian dominions, Magyar and Croatian, but also in German, French and English. The volume is what in these days we delight to call a "symposium," to which eminent writers in many fields have contributed. In the twenty-eight chapters which make up the volume, we find a wealth of information which will satisfy the appetite not only of the general reader, eager for information regarding the nation which has so long stood as the outpost of western civilization in Eastern Europe, but also of the specialist in political science, who finds here an authoritative statement of the Hungarian constitution and the peculiar relations of the Hungarian State to the Austrian, as well as the equally interesting but less widely known relations of Croatia-Slavonia to the parent Hungarian stem. Not less valuable are the essays which depict the striking ethnographical conditions of Hungary, the relations of its nationalities, its demographical conditions and its economic activities. The purpose of the work is eminently patriotic, and the reader will hardly find fault with the sturdy national feeling which pervades its pages. It is an interesting document of the Hungarian's estimate of his native land. Those

* *The Millennium of Hungary and Its People*. Edited by Dr. JOSEPH DE JEKEL-FALUSSY. Pp. 672. Budapesth, 1897.

who read its pages carefully will recognize that the estimate is well grounded, and will share the hopes of the writers, that the lustre of Hungary's achievements in the civilization of Eastern Europe may not be dimmed.

IT IS WITH REGRET that we record the publication of another work by Mr. Michael G. Mulhall entitled "Industries and Wealth of Nations."* Like his previous works, this pretends to be a serious statistical treatment of his subject, and with many will doubtless rank as such. Mr. Mulhall, however, does not confine himself to the published records of statistical offices, but supplies gaps in a manner peculiarly his own. He frankly explained his methods in the *Contemporary Review* of October, 1890. One illustration of many will suffice. "The wealth of nations consists of ten items, all of which can be measured to a nicety, except one, the value of public works. Land, for example, is worth thirty times the assessed annual rental valuation. Houses are worth eighteen times the rental. Furniture (according to insurance agents) is always worth half the value of the house," etc., etc. Knowing these fixed and invariable ratios, though how Mr. Mulhall came into the possession of such mysteries he does not reveal, he can readily obtain any desired figure. The book before us has ample evidence that its figures are in many cases based upon like methods. Of course, there is no direct indication of what is fact and what is conjecture. As a work of reference for scholars, therefore, the book is utterly worthless. One cannot but regret the labor that has been spent in its preparation. Doubtless much of its data is correct and official, but so long as conjectural statistics play so large a role the whole must be rejected.

STUDENTS WHO HAVE found Dr. Stammhammer's "*Bibliographie des Socialismus und Communismus*" serviceable, will welcome the appearance of an equally exhaustive bibliography of the literature of current social and political problems (*Sozialpolitik*)† from the same author. As in the earlier work, so here the alphabetical catalogue of authors and their writings, is followed by a subject catalogue containing references under each topic to all of the separate titles which have preceded. Thus the reader can readily turn to the literature of any question in which he may be interested, and will be gratified to find references not only to books and pamphlets, but also to periodical

* *Industries and Wealth of Nations*. BY MICHAEL G. MULHALL. Pp. 451. Price, \$3.00. London and New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1896.

† *Bibliographie der Sozialpolitik*. Bearbeitet und herausgegeben von JOSEF STAMMHAMMER. Pp. iv, 648. Price, 18 marks. Jena: Gustav Fischer, 1897.

writings. The bibliography will be found especially rich in regard to the labor problem and the question of poor relief, but so far as we have been able to discover, no important topic is omitted, and under each heading a sufficient number of references is given to tax the resources of even the best equipped library. German literature is, of course, more completely reviewed than English, French or Italian, but in the treatment of such a peculiarly English topic as the Irish question the references are so full and complete that it is doubtful if an English bibliography could have done better. Detailed criticism of such a monumental compilation must be left to time and the co-operative work of students of all lands. For the present we can only express our gratitude for this latest product of German thoroughness and industry.

REVIEWS.

Heures de Travail et Salaires. Étude sur l'amélioration directe de la condition des Ouvriers industriels. By MAURICE ANSIAUX. Pp. 299. Paris: Felix Alcan. Bruxelles: Larcier, 1896.

In his treatment of the labor problem M. Ansiaux is an optimistic conservative. He believes strongly in the necessity and the possibility of improvement in the conditions of the laboring classes, but rejects as impracticable the remedies and reforms proposed by extremists of all classes. His book does not add much, if anything, to our knowledge of the conditions of labor in different parts of the world. Its purpose is rather to analyze well-known conditions and the remedies proposed for their improvement, and to show what is and what is not practicable and along what lines and how, better conditions may be attained.

M. Ansiaux finds the chief causes of the labor problem in the following facts: (1) A permanent wage-earning class which owes its existence to the concentration of industry, occasioned by the widespread use of machinery; (2) Competition on an international scale which has made a progressive cheapening of the cost of production a condition of business success; (3) An over-development of the instrumentalities of production, caused by the concentration of wealth, and leading to the problem of the unemployed. Under these new conditions progress for the laboring class can only be attained through the improvement of the conditions of the wage-earner as such. He cannot as a rule hope to better himself by rising to the rank of master or entrepreneur. A wage-earner he must remain, and, as such, through a progressive shortening of the working day and a progressive rise in wages, he must keep pace with the onward movement of civilization.